

## Byelorussians stage strike

MOSCOW (AP) — Tens of thousands of workers Tuesday staged their second strike this month in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk to protest the government's refusal to address their political and economic demands. The workers oppose steep government price increases, demand the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev and want a special session of the republic's legislature. The strike did not appear to be as large as a walkout staged April 10-11 in the industrial city. About 40,000 to 50,000 people marched from their factories to Minsk's central Lenin Square for a rally, said Igor Gerenchenko, a legislator and member of the Byelorussian Popular Front. He said strike committee organizers estimated at least 40 enterprises had joined the walkout. During the previous strike, organizers claimed 200,000 people stopped working in Minsk and several other cities. More than 60 enterprises — including Minsk's tractor works, auto plant and electronics factory — were in the city of 1.5 million people, although transport, communications, stores and other essential enterprises functioned fully.

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## Aziz in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz is in Tunis at the start of a North African tour, the first by a senior Iraqi leader since the end of the Gulf war. Mr. Aziz arrived on Monday night from Amman where he met Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri. Citizens of the five North African states were sympathetic to Iraq during the war.

## Kuwait 'changing views' on boycott of Israel

NEW YORK (R) — Kuwait has indicated a willingness to abandon part of the Arab boycott of Israel and do business with U.S. companies that also work with the Jewish state, according to Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, during a meeting on Sunday. Mr. Pickering's office declined comment and a spokesman for Kuwait was not immediately available for comment. But diplomatic sources said there were indications that Kuwait was willing to drop its ban on American companies doing business with Israel although it would keep the ban on direct dealing with Israel, which it does not recognize.

## Ghali visits Rabat

RABAT (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali has arrived in Morocco for talks with government leaders, the official news agency MAP said Tuesday. Mr. Ghali, who arrived on Sunday, told MAP before leaving Cairo he would discuss the Palestinian question, an Arab League meeting to be held in Cairo in mid-May, and the Non-Aligned Movement conference due to open in Accra in September.

## Israeli gunboat intercepts boat

SIDON (R) — An Israeli gunboat intercepted a passenger boat off South Lebanon and diverted it to Israel, port sources reported Tuesday. They said the Belize, carrying 15 Palestinian and Lebanese passengers to Cyprus, was intercepted Sunday off the port town of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. It was not known which port the boat was taken to. The captain is Bulgarian and the crew are Lebanese and Egyptians.

## Harvard teams to assess Iraqi deaths

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (R) — A group of U.S. lawyers and doctors are to travel to Iraq this week in an attempt to assess the extent of civilian deaths during the Gulf war, organisers of the trip said. The mission organised by graduate students at Harvard's Schools of Law and Public Health, will also deliver two tonnes of medical supplies to the Iraqi Red Crescent. The Harvard team has compiled a list of 50 sites bombed by allied forces in which civilians were either killed or injured. Lawyers will visit each site and gather information through observation and through interviews. The team's doctors plan to conduct nutritional surveys and assess health services in hospitals and clinics in Baghdad and outlying areas.

## Khomeini: Iran-U.S. ties impossible

TEHRAN (R) — The son of Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini says his country can never contemplate resuming relations with the United States. In a sharp rebuke of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's moderate diplomacy, Ahmad Khomeini said: "I state frankly that we cannot have ties with the United States. Our relations will forever be that of a sheep with a wolf." The Tehran newspaper Abrar on Tuesday quoted him as saying: "The simple-minded ones who think our economic and political problems with the West and the United States can be solved are terribly mistaken."

## Kurds say peace talks positive, will continue

LONDON (R) — Kurdish guerrillas negotiating for autonomy with the Baghdad government said Tuesday that three days of talks had gone well and would continue.

"The talks are moving in a positive direction," said one Kurdish exile in London who was in contact with guerrilla leaders in northern Iraq Monday evening. A senior Iraqi source also told Arab diplomats in the Middle East that the talks were "very positive and the government was quite happy with them."

Kurdish sources in London said the rebel delegation, headed by veteran campaigner Jalal Talabani, was trying to secure Kurdish autonomy within a democratic-run Iraq. The talks were "very high level officials," they said but did not say whether they were with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein himself.

"President Saddam" has been portraying himself as stepping aside from power, resigning as prime minister. It has been more on a government level, although

of course we all know who stands behind the government," a Kurdish front spokesman said.

He said there was still deep mistrust of the government.

Forces loyal to the government crushed a Kurdish rebellion last month. More than one million Kurds fled their homes and into freezing mountains on the Iranian and Turkish borders.

"We have come to the conclusion that a military uprising is not the solution. There has to be a political solution guaranteed by outside forces, namely the United Nations," a spokesman for the Kurdistan front said.

They are also pressing their political case with Western governments, building on the international recognition of their plight provoked by the suffering of the refugees.

A delegation of Kurdish leaders had talks with U.S. State Department officials in Washington Monday and Kurdish delegates joined a group of Iraqi exiles who met a Foreign Office minister in London.

The spokesman said the Kurds had "made arrangements to secure the safety of the men in Baghdad," but gave no details.

A prominent Iraqi exile in London said President Saddam had sent a number of senior officials to stay with Kurdish forces near the town of Erbil as a pledge that no harm would come to the Kurdish delegation during the talks.

The front spokesman said he could not confirm that.

The Iraqi exile, who asked not to be identified, said it appeared President Saddam had made clear he would offer the Kurds much of what they want.

Apart from autonomy, they are demanding free elections throughout Iraq, Kurdish participation in decision-making at all levels, and the inclusion of the oil-producing Kirkuk region in the Kurdish autonomous area.

Non-Kurdish Iraqi groups have condemned the decision by the Kurdish leadership in the mountains of northern Iraq to negotiate directly with the government, although they believe an agreement is quite possible.

It was not immediately clear if the move would affect the workings of Iraq's government.

But it appeared to be in line with a series of changes over the past year aimed at giving Iraq's government the framework of a democracy.

President Saddam promised on March 16, that Iraq was entering a "new political era" with free public debate and multiple political parties.

The government allowed parliamentary elections in 1989 for the first time since 1980.

Last July, it announced a proposed new constitution that would offer presidential elections and greater political freedoms.

In recent years, the government has allowed slightly broader public debate about government policies and performance, although it has punished any open criticism of the president himself.

President Saddam, who had been prime minister since becoming president in 1979, gave up the post when he appointed Baath Party veteran Saadoun Hammadi prime minister on March 23.

INA said the newspaper did not say when the RCC issued the decree, which appears to regulate the legal status of the Hammadi government.

While bolstering forces near northern Iraq, the United States continued to remove troops in the south.

U.S. officers reported that troop strength throughout the Gulf region continued to drop drastically, to 237,000 Tuesday.

White House spokesman said the camp being set up near Zakho: "The Iraqis watched but did not interfere with U.S. forces setting up tents, a U.S. military spokesman said.

"By having air assets, that provides another degree of flexibility in case the refugee camps come under attack," said a U.S. navy source.

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(Continued on page 5)

## American-Iraqi tension mounts as allied presence is increased

### Iraq asks U.N. to take over U.S. refugee camps for Kurds

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Baghdad Tuesday formally asked the United Nations to take over the Kurdish refugee camps the United States is setting up in northern Iraq.

U.N. spokesman Nadia Younes said the United Nations was studying the request from Iraqi Minister Ahmad Hussein, and had relayed a copy to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Paris.

The U.S. mission to the United Nations had no immediate response.

The Iraqi letter calls the U.S. military effort "a serious, unjustifiable and unfounded attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

It notes, however, that Baghdad has not taken any steps to block that establishment of the camps near Zakho.

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## Iraqi cabinet gets more power

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, continuing a series of political changes, has turned many of his powers over to the cabinet, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Tuesday.

The news agency said the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) headed by President Saddam had decided to revoke a 22-year-old decree which gave the cabinet's powers to the president.

It was not immediately clear if the move would affect the workings of Iraq's government.

But it appeared to be in line with a series of changes over the past year aimed at giving Iraq's government the framework of a democracy.

President Saddam promised on March 16, that Iraq was entering a "new political era" with free public debate and multiple political parties.

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Last July, it announced a proposed new constitution that would offer presidential elections and greater political freedoms.

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## Mubarak answers Shamir on Mideast peace process

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday answered a message he received from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir early this month, a presidential spokesman said.

Mohammad Abdul Moneim said Mr. Mubarak's reply was relayed to Mr. Shamir Tuesday afternoon by Egypt's ambassador to Israel.

Mr. Mubarak's answer dealt with the Middle East peace process and the basic requirements for achieving a just settlement, Mr. Abdul Moneim said without elaboration.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir was quoted by a leading state-owned newspaper as saying that Israel wants to normalize relations with Arab states and at the same time negotiate with the Palestinians on the basis of his 1989 initiative that calls for a limited self-rule for the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We want to normalize relations with the Arab countries and at the same time, negotiate with the Palestinians. It is not logical to separate the Palestinian question from the political and economic background of the region," Mr. Shamir said in an interview with Al Ahram.

"Moving the Palestinian problem would lead to the normalization of the Arab-Israeli relations," Mr. Shamir said in the interview with Al Ahram's Anis Mansour.

Mr. Shamir made clear that normalization of relations meant putting an end to the state of war between Arab states and Israel since 1948, the Arab boycott of the Jewish state and the arms race.

"Conventional weapons are

more dangerous than the unconventional arms," Mr. Shamir said without elaboration. Israel is said to be in possession of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Shamir urged Egypt to carry on the role it played in the U.S.-sponsored negotiations with Israel at Camp David 1978 which produced a peace treaty between the two countries a year later.

The Palestinian section of the Camp David accords provided for limited Palestinian self-rule for a 5-year transition period with negotiations to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza and its relationship with its neighbors. It was never applied.

Mr. Shamir however said he read a published remark by Mr. Mubarak two years ago in which the Egyptian president expressed regret that Egypt was no longer able to continue such a role because of Arab opposition.

Mr. Mubarak said on several occasions that this part of the accords is now dead.

Mr. Shamir ruled out any role for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in any future negotiations.

He said such negotiations should be limited to representatives elected by the people in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli prime minister also ruled out any possibility for returning the Golan Heights to Syria in any future negotiations.

"Have you ever heard of any country that was ready to change its territory?" Mr. Shamir said of the heights which Israel "annexed" after taking it in the 1967 war along with the West Bank and Gaza.

## Greece holds bombing suspect

ATHENS (AP) — A Palestinian believed to be connected to a bombing which killed seven people in southwestern Greece has been arrested and held for questioning, the public order minister announced Tuesday.

Public Order Minister Yannis Vassiliades said that Assar Al Nobani, who holds both Jordanian and Israeli passports, was arrested in the public order ministry.

Asked by reporters to explain how he was apprehended in the ministry, Mr. Vassiliades replied: "Please don't press me for further details."

He said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which maintains an embassy here, cooperated in the search and discovery of Nobani.

Nobani, a former chemistry student at Saloucia University in northern Greece, was expelled shortly after the Gulf war started but apparently reentered the country clandestinely.

The explosion in the port of Patras, 180 kilometers from the capital Friday, killed seven people and injured at least eight others. Police believe that the bomber carrying 12 kilograms of explosives in a plastic bag was also killed by the powerful blast.

No group has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Police said Monday that their investigation so far strongly indicated that 26-year-old Palestinian student Ahmad Al Hashikheh was carrying the explosives which exploded as he was leaving a centrally located building in Patras. The blast ripped apart an air courier service office on the ground floor, killing at least five employees and a customer. Six of the dead have been identified by relatives and the seventh body remained unclaimed and unidentified.

The Public Order Ministry said that tattered pieces of a student identity card collected at the scene of the explosion indicated that the mutilated body was Hashikheh, a student attending Patras Polytechnic University. However, the ministry failed to offer any evidence that the body and the student identity card belonged to the same man.

He said only seven participated in the assassination. The prosecution demanded unspecified prison terms for the remaining six defendants on charges they hid two of the suspects to keep them from being caught.

According to Mr. Minyawy, the extremists' target was Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa.

Men with submachine guns

## Death sought for 19 for Mahjoub murder

CAIRO (AP) — The government demanded the death penalty on Tuesday for 19 of 25 alleged Muslim extremists charged in last October's assassination of Egypt's parliament speaker.

Prosecutor-General Badr Al Minyawy told reporters 12 of the 25 remain at large, although investigators arrested hundreds of suspects in the Oct. 12 downtown Cairo ambush. People still held but not listed on the charge sheet are being released, Mr. Minyawy said. He refused to disclose how many that involves.

He said the defendants list does not include the names of two alleged conspirators shot dead while resisting arrest a day after the shooting of Rifaat Al Mahgoub, speaker of the People's Assembly.

Men with submachine guns

opened fire on a three-car motorcade carrying Mr. Mahjoub and his security detail as it passed a luxury hotel. The speaker and four others were killed. A sixth man was shot dead as the assailants escaped on motorcycles.

The prosecutor-general said the basis of the demand that 19 plot leaders be hanged is their "criminal complicity... aimed at carrying out felonies to destabilize general order and security."

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## Firefighters still irked at logistical problems

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

**GREATER BURGAN OIL FIELDS**, Kuwait — Equipment shortages, bureaucratic delays and inadequate water supplies continue to hamper efforts to extinguish the roughly 500 blazing wells in Kuwait's sabotaged oil fields, firefighters say.

Crew chiefs from the three Texas companies involved in the massive operation detailed their problems in a private meeting Monday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"We told him things were going a little slow," said Coots Matthews of Houston-based Boots and Coots Co. "We need more equipment, more water and a little more help from the Kuwaiti government."

Kuwait's pace was "slow at best," Mr. Matthews said. He reported that Mr. Baker promised to do what he could to speed

things up.

Larry Flak, coordinator of the firefighting operation, said crews had controlled 60 of the sabotaged wells, either extinguishing fires or capping those which were spewing until oil. He said the crews now were putting out fires at a rate of roughly three a day.

As of two weeks ago, one of the worst problems facing the firefighters was long delays of equipment at the Saudi Arabian border. Mr. Flak said heavy equipment now was being brought to Kuwait by ship to avoid these delays.

On April 13, then-Oil Minister Rasheed Al Amiri said the firefighting job was too big for the four companies initially signed on — Red Adair, Boots and Coots, and Wild Well Control Co. of Texas, and Safety Boss of Alberta, Canada.

Mr. Amiri said teams would be required worldwide in an effort to put out the fires in seven months

instead of the original projection of two years.

Mr. Amiri, who did not consult with the North American companies before making his announcement, was ousted when a new cabinet was named Saturday.

Mr. Flak said the new oil minister, Hamud Al Ruqba, was a "get-along kind of guy" who promised the firefighters full support.

Mr. Flak said it was likely that more teams would be added to the operation, but not until contractors hired by Kuwait to handle logistics obtained more equipment and tools arrived.

Said Mr. Matthews: "They can't supply the teams they have now."

Mr. Flak said some of the equipment provided to the teams was shoddy.

"They shipped us some junk equipment," he said. "We

## U.N. force poised to move to south Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — United Nations peacekeepers will move into southern Iraq Wednesday, and American troops will withdraw, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

There are more than 11,000 refugees at a U.S.-run camp in Safwan, Iraq.

Majed Fayad, the spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission, said Tuesday he did not expect any security problems when the U.N. establishes its first observation post in Safwan.

Major General Gunther Greindl, head of the peacekeepers, met with the Iraqi government over the weekend to discuss security arrangements.

"We were assured by cooperation and assistance," Mr. Fayad said of the talks.

When the full 1,440-strong U.N. contingent is in place, it will patrol the buffer zone along the entire Iraq-Kuwait border, a distance of 190 kilometers. It stretches 10 kilometers into Iraq and five kilometers into Kuwait.

But the Iraqi and Kuwaiti governments will handle all civilian administration in their territory, including law enforcement.

On Wednesday the U.N. will only take over about a third of the buffer zone, from the coastal town of Um Qasr to a point west of Safwan. About 15 to 20 military observers and an undetermined number of infantry soldiers of explosives in a plastic bag was also killed by the powerful blast.

No group has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Police said Monday that their investigation so far strongly indicated that 26-year-old Palestinian student Ahmad Al Hashikheh was carrying the explosives which exploded as he was leaving a centrally located building in Patras. The blast ripped apart an air courier service office on the ground floor, killing at least five employees and a customer. Six of the dead have been identified by relatives and the seventh body remained unclaimed and unidentified.

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Men with submachine guns

screamed about it. They don't ship us junk any more.

Mr. Matthews and other firefighters cited water shortages as a critical problem, although Mr. Flak said progress had been made. He said pipelines linking the Greater Burgan oil field with the Gulf were able to fill a lagoon with 500,000 gallons in 12 hours.

Mr. Flak said "a bunch of fires" — but not all — would be out within seven months. "It will be a lot less smoky then, and a lot nicer a place to live."

Mr. Baker, wearing khaki pants and a Texas longhorns polo shirt, visited a site where a Red Adair crew is trying to put out one of the most difficult fires. He conferred inside a small bus with the senior members of the three Texas-based outfits, then walked to a corrugated-metal observation post less than 50 meters from the blazing well to get a closer look.

Red Adair crew leader

Raymond Henry explained to Mr. Baker the team's plans for putting out the fire, a particularly difficult one because oil was spewing in several directions from a badly damaged wellhead.

Mr. Baker, passing on Mr. Henry's explanation to reporters, said the crew hoped to knock off the top of the wellhead with a boom so the oil would spew straight upwards, making it easier to extinguish later, probably with a lotnic.

Throughout the visit, two pipelines were dousing the ball of fire with 2,000 gallons of water a minute to minimize the heat. The crew said they would not be ready to try to extinguish the fire for at least another day.

Kuwaiti officials say the fires are burning about six million barrels of oil a day, a daily loss of about \$120 million. But British scientists said the lost oil may actually be closer to two million barrels a day.

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Raymond Henry explained to Mr. Baker the team's plans for putting out the fire, a particularly difficult one because oil was spewing in several directions from a badly damaged wellhead.

Mr. Baker, passing on Mr. Henry's explanation to reporters, said the crew hoped to knock off the top of the wellhead with a boom so the oil would spew straight upwards, making it easier to extinguish later, probably with a lotnic.

Throughout the visit, two pipelines were dousing the ball of fire with 2,000 gallons of water a minute to minimize the heat. The crew said they would not be ready to try to extinguish the fire for at least another day.

Kuwaiti officials say the fires are burning about six million barrels of oil a day, a daily loss of about \$120 million. But British scientists said

## Princess Sarvath lauds JNRCS services, assumes chairmanship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday lauded the humanitarian services of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and urged its officials to extend such services to all parts of the urban and rural regions of the Kingdom.

"JNRCS efforts and humanitarian services have assumed international standards, offering relief services on a wide scale," the Princess said during a visit to the JNRCS headquarters in Amman marking her assumption of the post of honorary chairmanship of the JNRCS's women branch, as

entrusted to her by Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who has been serving as chairperson of the same branch.

The Princess was briefed by JNRCS Vice-President Mohamad Al Hadid on the society's various activities and its roles at the international level as well as the activities of JNRCS branches in various governorates.

The Princess was later accompanied on a tour of the Hilal Hospital and the Vocational Training Centre for women, both of which are run by the JNRCS for the benefit of the local women community.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visits Dana natural reserve set up in the Tafilah Governorate (Petra photo)

## Natural reserve to protect area, help local villagers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Dana natural reserve in the Tafilah Governorate, a project of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), where she toured the project facilities and met with a number of the village inhabitants.

Dr. Anis Muasher, president of RSCN, presented the Queen with a briefing about the project, which is an integrated approach to conservation, encompassing the protection of the area as well as assistance for the controlled development of the resident people of Dana village and the surrounding area.

The project entails mainly the preservation and protection of the wildlife in that area, which was designated by the RSCN and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of twelve reserves in the country.

On May 4, the country will observe World Traffic Day, an event which will be extended for a whole week and which will witness various types of activities aimed at spreading awareness among members of the public with regard to safety on roads and safe driving, Brig. Mismar said.

He said that drivers, policemen and policewomen and other members of the public would be honoured, during the celebrations at a special ceremony to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, for their remarkable activities designed to reduce the number of accidents.

The first period at schools will be dedicated to spreading awareness among the school children about safety on the roads, and 10,000 booklets will be distributed to the students and other citizens dealing with sound and effective measures and the proper use of vehicles and saving fuel, Brig. Mismar said.

Furthermore, mechanical checks of various vehicles will be conducted during the week and strict monitoring of speed will be observed, with cars not allowed to exceed 85 kilometres per hour on the highways during the week, Brig. Mismar pointed out.

He said that the booklets and pamphlets to be distributed contain very useful information and tips about technical issues of vehicles and sound ways to conserve fuel.

*'Discovery will do miracles to the economics of the poor world'*

## Jordan attends symposium on wildlife protection

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was among 23 countries from around the world to attend an international symposium in London entitled "wildlife economics and management... policy and practice" which focused attention on a new scientific discovery that would absolutely preserve the lives of all animals on earth.

Jordan was represented at the symposium by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), which continues a drive here to preserve all types of animals, to protect indigenous species and their natural habitat, and preserve the fauna and flora of Jordan as well as reintroduce endangered and locally extinct species to their natural habitats.

The symposium focused attention on the creation of frozen embryos, and later on a frozen zebra, more or less like a data bank of embryos kept frozen by liquid nitrogen, according to Mr. Maher Abu Jaafar, the RSCN's director general who took part in the 18-day symposium and briefed the meeting on Jordan's endeavours, through its wildlife reserves, to conserve the riches of nature.

Only Jordan and Morocco from the Arab World were represented at the meeting during which Professor Ulysses Seal from the United States presented his discovery and his experiments



on white rhinos in Indonesia, complete with video tape, said Abu Jaafar in a statement to the Jordan Times.

Professor Seal, chairman of the Captive Breeding Specialist Group founded in the U.S., has been working for years on this "scientific miracle" before he was able to present it to the world, but, according to Abu Jaafar, experiments are still going on and if they become successful and generalized they will do miracles to the economies of the poor world.

"In addition to the fact that the discovery can help preserve all types of life from extinction, the symposium covered various aspects of the measures to be taken around the world for the protection and preservation of wildlife, laws related to such processes and strategies needed to promote the conservation of nature," Abu Jaafar added.

The RSCN, which was established in 1966, now has created six wildlife reserves in the Kingdom with the objective of protecting the ecosystems with their characteristic faunal, floral and geomorphological features," Abu Jaafar said.

He said that the reserves were those of Azraq wetland, Shaumari, Wadi Mujib, Zubya, Dana and Rum.

According to Abu Jaafar, the reserve system as a whole will encompass four per cent of the overall land area of Jordan by the end of the century and will include areas representative of all natural regions of Jordan.

He said that this process allowed the reserve system to support every single type of indigenous species of flora and fauna, making these areas essential for the future survival of Jordan's wildlife.

Only Jordan and Morocco from the Arab World were represented at the meeting during which Professor Ulysses Seal from the United States presented his discovery and his experiments

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# Post-apartheid reality unsettles S. African liberals

By Anton Ferreira

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — After years of campaigning to end apartheid, many white liberals find the reality of the new South Africa falls well short of their dreams.

As crime rates soar along with township violence, the liberal and not-so-liberal are again asking the eternal South African question: Should I head for California or Australia?

Heart Surgeon Christian Barnard, who performed the world's first human heart transplant in Cape Town in 1967, declared earlier this month he was considering emigration:

"I don't want to live in a Lebanon situation. I want to prevent myself and my family from becoming victims of violence," said Barnard, who two years ago announced support for the anti-apartheid Democratic Party.

"I always believed that one day we would get rid of apartheid, but I felt the transformation would be more peaceful," he said.

The surgeon later told reporters he felt more positive about the future after a talk with reformist President F.W. de Klerk who had assured him the government was doing all it could to end township violence.

But Dennis Beckett, editor of the current affairs magazine Frontline and a radio talk-show host, said Barnard's initial pessimism was widely shared.

"Every second bloke you speak to says the same thing — it's become a cliché."

A conversation with Durban-based consultant Jenny Wild was typical. "I'm disappointed at the new South Africa... The political turmoil will make investors go to Eastern Europe instead."

She also expressed concern at crime. "I have a gun, dogs, everything. If you'd told me three years ago I'd be carrying a gun, I'd have laughed at you."

Wild said she would leave South Africa if she thought her children's lives were in danger. "Why should I let my genes be wiped out?"

Beckett said he had also begun to question whether he would stay in South Africa.

"I can see the possibility of the country descending into a cycle of violence that would be intolerable."

In South Africa, someone is murdered every 45 minutes, a serious assault occurs every four minutes, a robbery every 10 minutes.

## Baker in Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

tions or the European Community and how Palestinians would be represented at the talks.

Syria, fearing a regional conference might play down United Nations resolutions ordering Israel quit occupied Arab territories,

## American-Iraqi tension mounts

(Continued from page 1)

from a peak of 540,000. More than 300,000 troops, or nearly 60 per cent, have been withdrawn since the end of the Gulf war Feb. 28.

Britain is sending a regiment of light artillery to the border of Iraq and Turkey to boost protection for Kurdish camps, British defence sources said.

The unit, due to leave shortly, is part of the 3rd commando brigade of some 4,500 men which forms the bulk of the British military presence in the region.

As part of a stepped-up U.S. relief effort, U.S. troops were arriving with more aid at the worst-off border refugee camps, at Cukra and Uzumlu.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Tuesday that a U.N. team would go to Iraq to launch an aid effort

## PLO wants U.N. 'presence'

(Continued from page 1)

"One must be vigilant at each step in the minefield... the American plans must be faced... pressure will be exercised on the PLO, which requires intelligence and flexibility," Mr. Arafat said in an opening speech reported by the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

"The PLO will not let the United States, Israel or anyone designate our delegation (to a peace conference), or impose internal autonomy as a new kind of slavery for our people," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat added that Jerusalem was "the essential prob-

nutes, a break-in every three minutes.

Political violence has killed nearly 10,000 people since 1984. Of those, more than 1,200 have died in the Johannesburg area alone since last August. Unemployment is around 40 per cent.

Township violence used to mean police shooting black demonstrators, and many South African liberals assumed this would end with apartheid.

The country would return to international respectability, foreign investment would flow in and almost everyone would live happily ever after, they thought.

But although de Klerk dismantling apartheid early last year, the township death toll still mounts — partly because of police action, but mainly in battles between rival black groups.

"A lot of people are obviously concerned at the violence and the negotiations between the government and black opposition groups) have not seemed to make much progress," said one of South Africa's foremost liberals, former Member of Parliament Helen Suzman.

"But that's no reason to give up hope, although I'm not as optimistic as I was at the start of last year."

Suzman, who was for many years the only anti-apartheid activist in parliament, said she was staying out. "I haven't worked all these years just to quit now."

She said South Africa had a bright future if a solution could be found to political violence.

Barnard's public pessimism over the new South Africa brought a flood of reaction.

A caller to a radio talk show, who identified herself as a supporter of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, said: "I'm going to stay, because it's my country. What I can't understand is why do people like Chris Barnard want to leave when this is the future they voted for?"

The right-wing Citizen newspaper said people like Barnard were disillusioned because they had expected "quite foolishly" that the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of his African National Congress "would be the start of a peaceful process of change."

Despite the gloom, more people immigrated to South Africa last year than left. The department of home affairs reported a net gain of 9,777 people, 54 per cent up on 1989.



## The ecological disaster in the Gulf

By Peter Vine

GIVEN the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that some confusion has arisen over the extent of the pollution unleashed on the northern Gulf and surrounding countries. But this is one instance where the world press can be blamed for producing conflicting reports on the size of the oil spill or its latest position.

Part of the problem lies with the difficulties encountered in identifying thin sheets of floating oil in a military zone unsafe for research vessels or surveillance aircraft. While satellites have been of considerable use in tracking smoke from burning oil wells and storage tanks, there have been major hitches with the interpretation of satellite images of the sea's surface: apparently leading in some cases to extensive sea-grass or algal beds in shallow water being tagged as dark oil slicks.

Changes in sea conditions, as well as altering clarity of the water, have resulted in these phantom slick appearing one day and disappearing the next. This has not helped the process of assessing the overall extent of the slick or contingency planning by countries in the firing line of this environmental terror.

### The size of the slick

Estimates of the total amount of oil released into the Gulf have varied widely from half a million to over 12 million barrels. The public, having expressed its deep-felt horror at the death of large numbers of cormorants, regarded by many as symbols of the innocent victims of the war, breathed a collective sigh of relief when

they were told that the slick was not as large as previously estimated. Other sources contradicted these comments, however, pointing to the fact that a great deal of oil was still floating on shore and had not yet affected the coastline.

A remarkable feature of the entire period since the oil first poured into the Gulf is that almost all officials have been ready to express opinions regarding the quantity of oil released into the sea, but very few have been able to support their statements with anything remotely approaching scientific evidence. Suggestions that deliberate misinformation was fed into the rumour machine during the height of the conflict cannot be verified. Given the genuine confusion among scientists as to what did or did not constitute an oil slick, one could forgive military and political spokesmen for the odd error.

One of the first official reports of these disastrous events was in the form of a cable from U.S. military sources, dated Jan. 29, addressed to the OECD meeting of environment ministers in Paris. It confirmed the statement by General Schwarzkopf at his briefing in Riyadh on Jan. 27 in which he announced that the major spill emanated from Mina Al Ahmadi. The report further states that the first source was from five ships located at the terminals, which had been riding low in the water "apparently fully loaded," but were then "riding very high, an indication that their cargo, 4 million barrels of crude oil, has been emptied." The report explained that the "second source of the slick was

the oil released from the tank farms on the mainland; this added another 4-5 million barrels of crude to the slick. The valves controlling this flow of oil are in Iraqi hands."

Denying Saddam Hussein's accusations that U.S. military action was responsible, the report states: "The slick has nothing to do with U.S. military activities. There have been none in the area. In fact the existence of the growing slick was not known to us until Jan. 24, probably four days after the valves had been opened by the Iraqis. We notified the Saudi government as soon as we discovered what the Iraqis has done and immediately began consulting with experts from Saudi Arabia about how to handle this environmental disaster." Finally the cable explains that there is "another slick which has touched the shore and is responsible for killing birds and animals. This is the slick seen on television. It is much smaller and was created in the first two days of the war as a result of Iraqi shelling that hit the Khafji refinery."

On Tuesday Jan. 29, a new source of crude flowing into the Gulf was identified at Mina Al Bakr supertanker terminal on the Fao peninsula in Iraq. Three days later that flow was reported to have ceased. Whilst the major flows were stemmed, in the case of Al Ahmadi by an F-111 aircraft delivering "smart" GBU-15 guided bombs directly onto a crucial valve, smaller sources from Iraq and Kuwait have continued to spew crude into the Gulf to be only 5 million barrels, the slick would still qualify as the worst ever, about 220 times the size of the Exxon Valdez Alaskan spill of 1989 and considerably larger than the *Ixtoc I* from which 3.3 million barrels spilt into the

Gulf of Mexico in 1979.

One statistic which clearly contradicts the suggestion that the spill may have been much less than this, and possibly as "little" as the *Exxon Valdez*, which was reported to have released a "mere" quarter of a million barrels, is provided by the official figures for oil recovered into Saudi Aramco facilities: As of March 25 the figure for total recovery of crude oil was 361,765 barrels. The oil which has come ashore is naturally accumulating in bays between Tanajib and Abu Ali and purpose built sandbars are helping to hold in thick masses from which skimmers pull it into pits on shore before it is pumped into trucks and carried away for refining.

Daily recovery rates are presently running at around 15,000 to 20,000 barrels per day and there is no sign yet of any shortage of oil to pump from the sea.

### "Ecocide"

One reason for the great interest in the amount of crude oil released into the Gulf is that it has been widely described as the world's largest oil-slick. Suggestions that it might not deserve this title appear to have created disappointment in some quarters! Concern for the actual extent of damage caused to wildlife seems at times to have been clouded by the more sensational aspect of the story. Having recently walked the oil soaked beaches of Saudi Arabia and watched many birds dying from the oil, there is no doubt in my mind that this is one of the world's worst cases of ecocide. Assuming the total amount of oil released into the Gulf to be only 5 million barrels, the slick would still qualify as the worst ever, about 220 times the size of the Exxon Valdez Alaskan spill of 1989 and considerably larger than the *Ixtoc I* from which 3.3 million barrels spilt into the

neath the oil slick off Ras Al Zawr in February, just before the short-lived land-war began. I was impressed by the thickness of the oil, the fact that it totally cut out the light, and that nothing seemed to escape its poisonous, sticky tentacles. It was a strange sensation, in less than eight feet of water, to find oneself swimming in pitch darkness in the middle of the day. To make matters worse the sky above was almost as black as the sea.

There can be little doubt that the mega-slick in the Gulf is an environmental disaster of enormous proportions, nor that the setting aside of most of Kuwait's oil wells is an even greater catastrophe. In the months ahead we shall see just how lethal the combination of oil and smoke is for Man and nature. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait provide an unexpected testing ground for the West's military muscle; now it is proving an equally challenging battlefield for environmental science and technology.

I shall be returning to the Gulf shortly to search for elusive dugongs, and to discover whether turtles and terns have managed to survive the oil in order to nest on islands off the Saudi coastline. Arabia's wildlife has already suffered from the impact of massive regional development: one cannot but hope that the great surge in public awareness and concern for the Gulf's natural environment, stimulated by this ecological disaster, will not have come too late for the animals themselves.

Dr. Vine is a marine biologist and formerly director of fisheries research in Saudi Arabia. He has recently returned from the Gulf. This article is reprinted from Middle East International.

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## Marseille is ready for 1st European final

**MARSEILLE (R)**—Marseille, a club with ambitions as big as millionaire President Bernard Tapie's bank-balance, expect to finish off Spartak Moscow and stride into their first European Cup soccer final Wednesday.

The French champions have reason for over-confidence after their superb 3-1 semifinal first leg win in Moscow two weeks ago but, with so much at stake, they are taking nothing for granted.

Trainer Raymond Goethals has imposed a three-day media blackout as the squad prepare behind closed doors at their secluded Alpine training camp in Digne, determined that the chance of reaching the final will not slip away.

Marseille lost out to Benfica of Portugal at the same stage last year, as they did to Ajax Amsterdam three years ago in the Cup Winners' Cup semifinals, delivering a blow to Tapie's avowed object of making Marseille the first French champions of Europe.

This time the chances of a mistake look slim.

Apart from injured midfielder Bernard Pardo, Goethals has a full squad to choose from and the defense, reinforced this year by the Belgian coach, has not conceded three goals in a match at their stade Velodrome since Ajax's visit three years ago.

But Goethals, perhaps to guard against the risk of his players taking the match too lightly, slammed his team after their 1-1 draw away to lowly Remes last Friday as he did following their 6-2 win over Nancy the previous week.

"If the players can't cope with two competitions, we will fall between two stools and lose both," he said, referring to the danger of being overtaken by Monaco in the league.

Apart from the not inconsiderable hurdle of having to overcome a two-goal deficit, Spartak have few problems, with only one slight doubt in midfielder Valery Savin.

But their preparation, as before the first leg, has been far from ideal. On that occasion, they went to a tournament in Japan, earning the wrath of the Soviet Federation.

This time, trainer Oleg Romantsev said he had to release

nine of his team for the national squad just after the first leg and only got them back a day before their 3-2 home win over Ararat Yerevan at the weekend.

"They were tired as well and now, here we are, two days later in Marseille," he complained.

Goethals' chief problem is who to leave out of his powerful squad with midfielders of the calibre of Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic, Jean Tigana and Philippe Verheyen, not to mention striker Eric Cantona, unable to command a regular place.

With Englishman Chris Waddle and Ghanaian Abedi Pele on sublime form, captain Jean-Pierre Papin should receive the service he needs to carry his tally of six cup goals this season.

Marseille will still have to be wary of the threat posed by Spartak strikers Valery Shmarov and Dmitri Radchenko, who sounded a few alarm bells in the quarter-finals when they scored all the goals in a 3-1 win over Real Madrid in Spain.

### Man. United expects to win

Manchester United fully expect to reach their first European final for 23 years on Wednesday despite Sunday's shock League Cup final defeat and the loss of their first-team goalkeeper.

Their 3-1 first-leg victory over Legia Warsaw in the semifinals of the Cup Winners' Cup was so emphatic that they regard Wednesday's second leg as little more than a formality on the way to the final in Rotterdam on May 15.

Manchester United, the first English team to win the European Cup in 1968, have never lost a European tie at home and have not conceded more than two goals in any game at Old Trafford.

Manager Alex Ferguson is not concerned about throwing 23-year-old reserve keeper Gary Walsh into only his third game of the season and his first European tie following the serious knee injury to Les Sealey in Sunday's 1-0 League Cup final defeat to second division Sheffield Wednesday.

Ferguson, who managed Aberdeen when they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1983, decided the task may have been made even easier by the recent troubles at an off-form and unsettled Bayern, whose coach Jupp Heynckes has become a regular target for the fans.

against recalling his former number one keeper Jim Leighton from Arsenal where he is on loan.

"Walsh is an excellent young goalkeeper. The only thing he lacks is Leighton's experience," said Ferguson.

"The Wembley defeat was a big shock for us. Hopefully we have learned something from the game but we all know we will have to play a lot better against the Poles."

Apart from Sealey, United will be at full strength with captain Bryan Robson returning after missing the first leg through suspension.

Legia Warsaw, ninth in the Polish first division, are still without suspended goalkeeper Maciej Szczesny, and defender Marek Jozwiak is also out after being sent off in the first leg against United.

### EUROPEAN CUP

Captain Krzysztof Bedka has still not recovered from injury.

Coach Wladyslaw Stachurski, who rested several players in Saturday's league match, wrote off his side's chances after the first leg and showed little confidence this week.

"We will seek our chance in quick counter-attacks but if we let United force us into deep defense, we may get in trouble."

"Our defenders are not too tall and they are weak in the air. But I am sure that result will be better than in Warsaw," he said.

Red Star confident of beating Bayern Munich

Red Star Belgrade, with 11 players in danger of suspension and a coach worried about their state of mind, can reach their first European Cup soccer final even if they lose to Bayern Munich Wednesday.

After beating the once-mighty Germans 2-1 in the first leg of the semifinal, the Yugoslavs know even a 1-0 defeat would be enough to usher them through on the away goals rule.

The task may have been made even easier by the recent troubles at an off-form and unsettled Bayern, whose coach Jupp Heynckes has become a regular target for the fans.

The draw left Inter three points behind leaders Sampdoria with

four matches remaining but their frustration may turn them into tough opponents in the second leg of their semifinal.

"I am more afraid of our mentality than of Bayern," he said, worried about his players emulating other Yugoslav sportsmen in the past and plucking defeat from the jaws of victory.

Petrovic can still remember the Bayern team which produced a sensation in Milan two years ago by beating Internazionale 3-1 in the UEFA Cup after losing 2-0 at home.

"They were capable of doing anything then and they can still do it now," he said. "I am trying to tell my players they have to play Wednesday as if nothing happened in Munich."

"Over confidence is a deadly sin when you play against a team like Bayern," he said, aware that disciplinary infringements could prove hugely expensive for the team's title hopes.

While none of the Red Star players are injured, 11, including nine in the first-choice line-up, have been booked previously in the competition and a second yellow card for any of them would bring an immediate one-match suspension.

Bayern, visiting Belgrade after three dismal draws in teh Bundesliga which left them four points behind leaders Kaiserslautern with nine matches left, have fitness worries.

Key midfielder Manfred Bender and left back Hans Fluegler are both out due to injury and Heynckes has been criticised by fans and players alike for juggling with the lineup.

The many re-arrangements are unnerving the team," said former Bayern and West German international Gerd Mueller.

Inter hopes to win against Sporting Lisbon

Internazionale, frustrated in the Italian League, are hoping to turn their anger to advantage against Sporting Lisbon in the UEFA Cup Wednesday.

The Milan team are still seething after being denied a crucial goal at Fiorentina Sunday, with television replays of the 0-0 league draw appearing to back up their claim.

The draw left Inter three points behind leaders Sampdoria with

four matches remaining but their frustration may turn them into tough opponents in the second leg of their semifinal.

"We have to play the remaining four (league) games trying to win... being in a situation in which we are obliged to attack suits me very well," said German striker Juergen Klinsmann.

His aggression should also be evident against sporting, who drew the first leg 0-0 in Lisbon two weeks ago.

German left back Andreas Breune, who has a broken toe and did not play a full match in Florence, is doubtful although a special protective cover might allow him to start.

Sporting, almost at full strength, lost 2-0 at home to Porto in the league Saturday and are looking for changes.

"We made many mistakes. We have to play differently in Milan," Sporting's Brazilian manager Marinho Peres said.

"Psychologically it would have been better to go to Italy after a victory. But we have confidence in our chances."

Yugoslav international keeper Tomislav Ivkovic has not lost any of the last seven games he has played against Italian sides and said: "I don't want to lose this one either."

Sporting have no serious injury worries but will be without defender Carlos Xavier, suspended after the first leg. He will be replaced by Brazilian Joao Luis Barbosa.

Experienced Brazilian defender Luisinho missed the Porto match because he was at his mother's funeral in Brazil but was expected back for the game in Milan.

Voeller faces fitness test

German international striker Rudi Voeller, scorer of nine goals in the UEFA Cup this season, faces a late fitness test before as Roma's semifinal second-leg match against Brondby Wednesday.

The first leg in Copenhagen ended in a goalless draw when the Danish side failed to score for the first time in the competition.

Roma owe their progress to the semifinals in no small measure to Voeller, who netted four goals in the quarterfinal tie with Anderlecht of Belgium including a hat-trick in the away leg.

He said in a written statement.

"Bobby Lee's actions and his dealings with Bob Arum have convinced me that I am not being treated fairly by Bobby Lee."

Chavez, undefeated in 74 fights, said: "I took the action with 'great regret.'

"I have proven myself in the ring, have always held by championship with great respect, and have never ducked any challenger," he said. "I won the IBF title in the ring and now am forced as a result of Bobby Lee's actions to give up my title."

Lee and Arum could not be reached for comment.

## Korean table tennis team brings back 'ping-pong diplomacy'

**CHIBA, Japan (R)**—The days of "ping-pong diplomacy" return to the fore Wednesday when a unified Korean team competes at the World Table Tennis Championships.

The two countries, still technically at war but united as a team for the first time, could upset champions China and Sweden in the 13-day event in Chiba, near Tokyo.

The Koreas have world-class players and must rank among the favourites for gold in the seven categories of the biennial event, which this year brings together a record 69 men's teams and 58 women's squads in the separate team competitions.

But there is far more than gold medals at stake.

"We will do our best to reap good results and show to the world the scenes of harmony and unity between players from South and North Korea during the championships," said Kim Chang-Jae, general manager of the joint Korean national team.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### U.S. WINS SOLOMON TROPHY

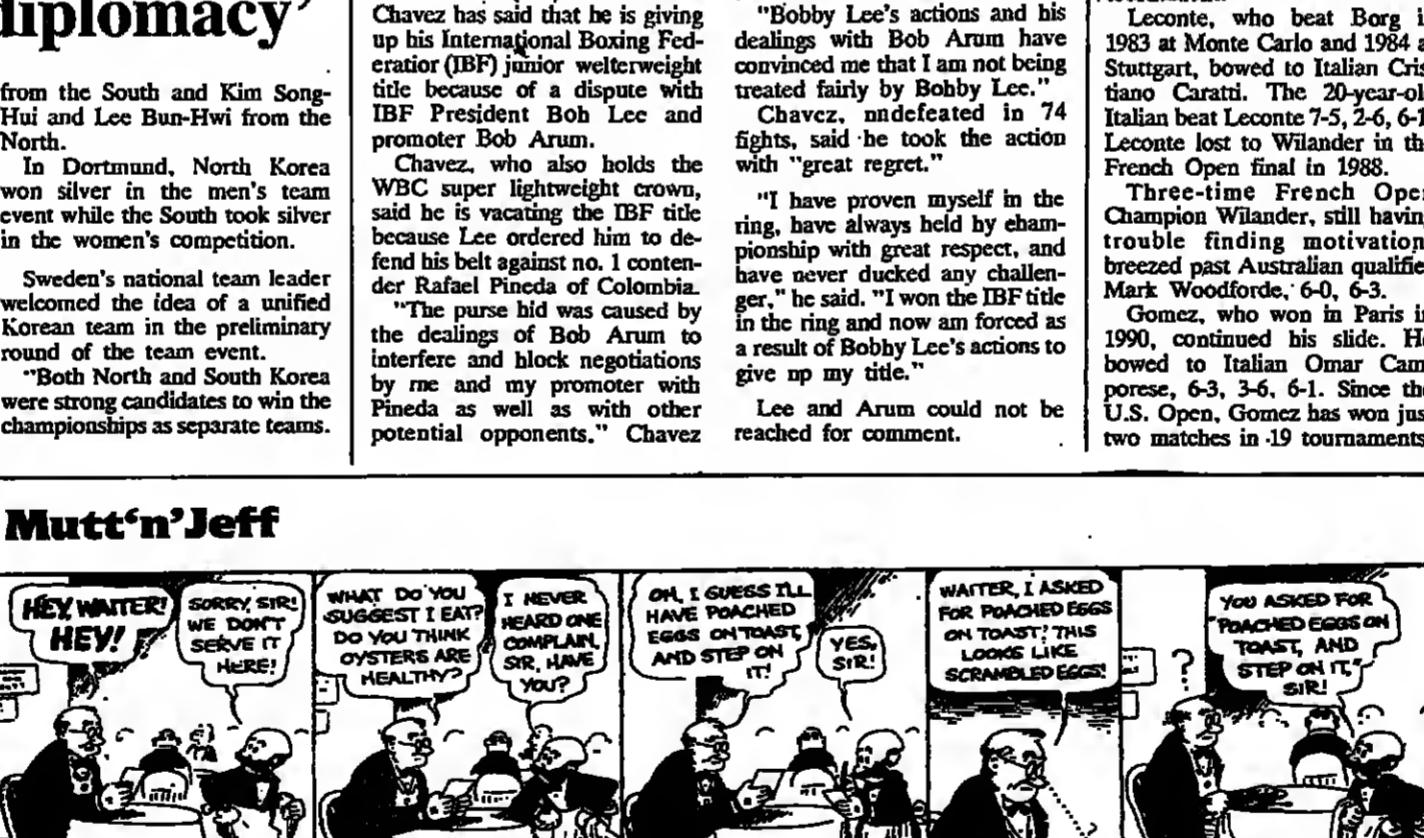
North-South vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A K 6 5  
♦ J 9 8 2  
♦ 3  
+ K Q J 3  
WEST EAST  
+ Q 8 4 3 2 + J 7  
+ K 5 . + A 6 3  
+ 7 4 . + K Q J 9 6 2  
+ 10 8 7 6 + 9 4  
**SOUTH**  
♦ 10 9 .  
♦ Q 10 7 4  
♦ A 10 8 5  
♦ A 5 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1 ♦ 2 ♠ 2 NT  
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass  
Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.  
By taking the first two places in the Women's Pairs, winning the Mixed Pairs and finishing second in the Open Teams, the United States again dominated the World Bridge Olympiad, played in Geneva, Switzerland, thereby retaining the Charles Solomon Trophy awarded to the country that does best overall. Since it was first presented in 1968, no other country has won this prestigious cup.

### Mutt'n'Jeff



### Andy Capp



### Peanuts



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 1991  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Tuning in just what is best for you will bring your powerful perceptions to the surface bringing beneficial results and an opportunity at which you must take strong initiatives.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)  
You can spell out what you want the most to the person who is most influential or has the most authority where you are concerned and make progress.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)  
There are a considerable number of fascinating new arrangements you can make if you take the idea as you now have and have experts assist you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)  
Whatever you have in mind that does require much attention to responsibilities you have assumed to others should be put into active motion now.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)  
This is your day to thoroughly enjoy yourself at the recreations and the amusements that bring you peace and contentment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)  
Make a point to get rid of all those practical tasks that are not much fun but that have to be done before you can really get ahead.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)  
Take sometime out to let all about see and be aware that you are a good friend and that you will amuse or entertain others so they forget their woes.

those fascinating persons you have the best time with and concentrate with them upon a hobby that is of mutual interest.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)  
There are quite a number of outside duties to be done, appointments, meetings, shopping, errands, etc. so get them behind you now.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21)  
You have it in your power to let all about you see and be aware that you are the one who does have the interest what your usual allies would like to have you do.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21)  
You need more money for you like more than most signs the good things of life and this is a day to make a fresh start towards more abundance.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19)  
Whatever you personally would like to do is fine now but be sure you think big so you can have big results otherwise a fine day is wasted.

**THE BETTER HALF.**

By Harris

HARRIS  
II-17

THE BETTER HALF.

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That's ten dollars, please.

**YOMEN**

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## EC to raise financial aid to Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — The European Community (EC) will increase its financial aid to Tunisia by 27 per cent to 284 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$240 million) in the next five years, the EC office in Tunis said Monday.

Of the total, 116 million ECUs (\$98 million) will be gifts. The remaining 168 millions (\$142 million) will be lent by the European Investment Bank at interest rates close to those of the World Bank.

A feature of the aid package will be that 15 million ECUs (\$12.7 million) of the gifts will be earmarked for risk capital of finance Tunisian participation in joint ventures.

In the previous package for the five-year period ending in 1991 the EC provided Tunisia with financial aid worth 224 million ECUs (\$184 million).

EC sources said Tunisia could obtain additional aid in the form of support for structural adjustment programmes open to seven Arab countries, or from the Community's regional cooperation fund available to all Mediterranean countries.

## Iran central bank said seeking large oil credits

PARIS (R) — The Iranian central bank, Bank Markazi, has approached European banks to raise \$1 to \$2 billion in loans repayable from oil sales by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), according to oil industry journal Petrostrategies. Monday's edition of the Paris-based weekly said lenders would open credit lines for buyers of Iranian crude oil and take 50 per cent of the value of their purchases in repayment of the loans, passing the remaining 50 per cent on to NIOC.

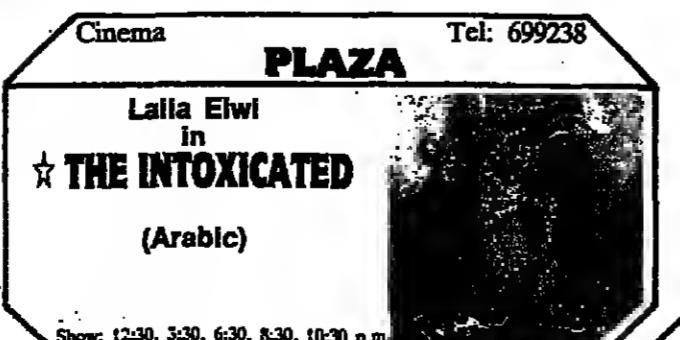
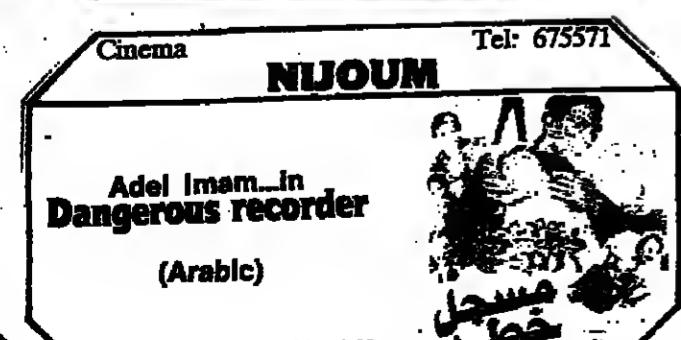
### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 23, 1991.		Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	683.0	687.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	492.2	495.2
Pound Sterling	1162.0	1169.0	Dutch guilders	345.4	347.1
Deutschmark	388.4	393.9	Swiss francs	104.5	104.2
Swiss franc	466.1	468.9	Italian lire (for 100)	52.7	52.7
French franc	113.5	116.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.8	190.9

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
One Sterling	1.6985/95
One U.S. dollar	1.1568/78
1.7585/95	U.S. dollar
1.9830/40	Canadian dollar
1.4725/35	Deutschmarks
36.20/24	Dutch guilders
5.9260/10	Swiss francs
1299/1300	Belgian francs
138.50/60	French francs
6.2570/20	Italian lire
6.8350/8400	Japanese yen
6.7250/7300	Swedish crowns
One ounce of gold	Norwegian crowns
356.75/357.25	Danish crowns
	U.S. dollars

**TODAY AT**



## Economist prescribes higher unemployment to save Jordan future

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Unemployment is an entrenched problem in the structure of the Jordanian society and the tragedy is that in order to really solve the crisis, Jordanians must suffer from higher unemployment. Dr. Jawad Anani told a forum of bankers, government officials and intellectuals on Sunday evening.

"Basically, the borrowing trend was there but now suddenly there is much more of it — it's being stepped up," one general manager of a Saudi joint-venture bank said.

Foreign banks have agreed to participate in a sovereign loan of at least \$3.5 billion for Saudi Arabia but signing is believed to still be weeks away.

Saudi banks, which were excluded from that deal, are flush with funds and domestic loans from the Public Investment Fund and Saudi Industrial Development Fund.

Saudi Arabia decided in 1989 to stop allocating new money to those funds, which means they can now lend only by recycling the returns from previous loans.

This policy decision — aimed at limiting reliance on state spending and cutting budget deficits — came home to roost when Gulf war bills swallowed up the kingdom's oil revenues and the peace-time business climate picked up, economists said.

"Basically, they (the government) are saying to the companies if you can get the money you can get the deal and we'll give you the go-ahead," a Western economist in Riyadh said. "It's a very unusual development."

Economists say Saudi Arabia, burdened with up to \$65 billion of war-related costs, saw its budget

plant with Japan's Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Company, had also borrowed money in the past few weeks.

Another government-controlled firm, SECOCO (Saudi Consolidated Electrical Companies) Western was negotiating a 1.2 billion riyal loan (\$450 million) with Saudi Banks, they said. The deal was expected to be signed in two week's time.

"Basically, the borrowing trend was there but now suddenly there is much more of it — it's being stepped up," one general manager of a Saudi joint-venture bank said.

Bankers say Aramco approached each of the kingdom's domestic banks during the last few months for as much money as they were willing to provide in one-year loans to help cover the cost of boosting its oil production.

Economists say Aramco spent almost \$2 billion raising its output by more than 50 per cent to help compensate world markets for the loss of Kuwaiti and Iraqi crude.

Terms and amounts varied for each bank but the bankers said Aramco might seek a formal syndicated loan if it pushed ahead with plans to raise capacity further to ten million barrels per day (b/d) from around 8.5 million at present.

"They need a very large amount of money not provided by the regular cash flow," one banker said.

Bankers said SABIC, which is

building a new petrochemical

plant with Japan's Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Company, had also borrowed money in the past few weeks.

It is expected to double in 1991 but narrow again in 1992 as final bills are paid and oil production increases.

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## Sihanouk's rebel group accepts temporary truce

BANGKOK (AP) — The guerrilla forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday accepted an appeal for a temporary ceasefire in the war against the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government in Phnom Penh.

France, Indonesia and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made the joint request Monday.

"We welcome the appeal, and we hope the Phnom Penh regime will accept the U.N. plan" to end 12 years of war, said Ek Sereyouth, a spokesman for Sihanouk's office in Bangkok. But he said Sihanouk, who leads a three-party guerrilla coalition fighting the government, may have his own comments.

Ek said there currently was no heavy fighting in zones controlled by the Sihanouk guerrillas. They have not launched any major attacks since mid-November, concentrating instead on economic and political development of their zones, he said.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front will wait for an official notification from France, Indonesia and the U.N. secretary-general before announcing its position on the appeal, said a liberating front spokesman, Ok Serei Sopheap.

Spokesmen for the Khmer Rouge, the third and largest guerrilla group, could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday.

The guerrilla coalition had rejected previous truce proposals,

saying a ceasefire should come only in the context of a comprehensive political settlement.

No response from the Phnom Penh government was seen in Bangkok. In the past it has called for an immediate truce.

Each side has blamed the other for an upsurge of fighting at the start of this year's dry season despite international appeals for restraint.

The resistance said the government launched major counteroffensives, trying unsuccessfully to retake territory lost since a major Vietnamese troop pullout in September 1989.

The government said the guerrillas, especially the Khmer Rouge, were using tanks and artillery extensively for the first time to attack areas adjacent to the Thai border, particularly Battambang province.

In addition, the Khmer Rouge conducted "propaganda and intimidation campaigns to frighten our people into deserting Battambang," Cambodian President Heng Samrin said Saturday to troops returning from the Battambang front.

The efforts failed, state radio quoted him as saying. A text of the Monday broadcast was seen in Bangkok Tuesday.

The joint appeal asked that the ceasefire begin on May 1 and continue at least until peace talks planned for Jakarta, Indonesia, are completed, to create a favourable climate for success.

No date has been set for the

talks, but Indonesia has said it hoped they would be held in May.

Phnom Penh has said the arrangement of a truce should be one of the main topics at Jakarta. Phnom Penh also is expected to discuss with the guerrillas its reservations over the U.N. Security Council peace plan adopted last November.

Among other things, the government has rejected the proposed disarmament of all four Cambodian armies in the period before elections. Phnom Penh said it needed its army in case the Khmer Rouge, which massacred Cambodians during its rule in the 1970s, tried in retake power forcibly. It also said any agreement must include specific measures to prevent a Khmer Rouge return to power.

The appeal for a truce was issued by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, whose nations co-chair the international conference on Cambodia, the main forum for an agreement.

The two ministers and Perez de Cuellar said they were concerned by reports of a recent upsurge in fighting in Cambodia.

The statement reminded the warring factions that the U.N. Security Council and the General Assembly had "unanimously called on all parties in the conflict to exercise the greatest restraint in order to create a climate favourable to producing an overall political settlement."



Jean-Pierre Chevenement

## Chevenement says Gulf events prove him right

PARIS (R) — Former Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, who quit in January over France's involvement in the Gulf war, has announced his return to politics.

Chevenement said events since the war, including the Kurdish refugee exodus, had proved him right.

His decision to stand again for the parliamentary seat he had given up in 1988 when he became a cabinet member was seen as the first move in a presidential election bid.

A left-wing nationalist, Chevenement opposes several ideas generated by France's Gulf war coalition with Washington, notably a return to the NATO integrated command it left in 1966 or a scaling down of the French independent nuclear force.

He told a news conference at his home constituency of Belfort, in eastern France, that the deputy who took his place was stepping down to clear the way for a by-election.

It will probably be held in the summer.

Chevenement, 53, resigned on Jan. 29, when the air war against Iraq was in full swing and France had 12,000 men poised to join the land offensive that began a month later.

"You know that since last August (the start of the Gulf crisis) I was opposed to a war I thought avoidable and more likely to aggravate problems than to resolve them," he said.

He said he had offered to quit when France backed a U.N. resolution authorising force to evict Iraq's invasion troops from Kuwait.

"On Dec. 8, the head of state (President Francois Mitterrand) accepted the idea in principle. The precise date of my departure was deferred," Chevenement added.

Chevenement, a member of the ruling Socialist Party and a founder of the France-Iraq Friendship Society, later accused Mitterrand of abandoning France's traditional Third World sympathies to join an American "new world order."

A political commentator for the daily *Le Monde* said Monday's move was clearly the overturn to a presidential bid in May, 1995, when Mitterrand's second term expires.

"Chevenement ... has obviously started off on a solitary course for the presidency," Jean-Marie Colombe wrote.

The former defence chief has made no major public appearances since he quit, but has written articles in *Republique Moderne*, journal of his small Socialist and *Republique* wing of the party.

In the latest issue, dated Monday, Chevenement said events were now violating his anti-war stance.

"It would have been better not to have fought ... to avert the destabilisation of an entire region (demonstrated) by the tragedy of the Kurds and the whole Iraqi people," he wrote.

He criticised military "expeditions" by the United States, Britain and France to set up safe havens for Kurds in northern Iraq "as was done in colonial times."

The victory in World War II—the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union—were permanent Council members and the only ones with a veto.

The conference report did not name specific Security Council members that should lose their veto. But it said confidence in the United Nations should be bolstered, and a way to do this would be to change the Council's membership and voting system.

The treaty uniting east and west Germany last October will probably be something instead of the existing system, he said.

The group proposed a world summit on global governance to reform the council. They said such a gathering would be a follow-up of the meetings in San Francisco and Bretton Woods in the 1940s that led to the creation of the United Nations.

The United Nations is going to be 50 years old ... it is surely time to renew it," said Shridath Ramphal, former Commonwealth secretary general from Guyana.

## At least 50 people killed, 500 hurt in Costa Rica earthquake

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck this Central American country, killing at least 50 people and injuring 500 others when it toppled a hotel and destroyed scores of homes, authorities said Tuesday.

The quake, whose epicentre was in the Caribbean 180 kilometres (110 miles) east of San Jose, was felt throughout Costa Rica and parts of neighbouring Panama. Authorities said it hit Monday at 3:50 p.m. (2158 GMT) with an intensity of 7.4 on the Richter scale.

The worst damage was in Puerto Limon, the nation's main Caribbean port city, where the three-storey International Hotel collapsed and dozens of homes were destroyed.

"This place looks like one of these Hollywood apocalyptic movies. It felt like the world was coming to an end as everything moved and heaved," Rigoberto Perez, a resident of Puerto Limon, said by telephone.

"At least 11 people died in the collapse of the two big buildings in Puerto Limon," Red Cross officials said.

Authorities said eight people died and 15 were injured in the Panamanian provinces of Bocas Del Toro and Chiriqui, near the Costa Rican border.

In Puerto Limon, home to 130,000 people, water and power were out as firefighters struggled with major fires into the night. Most residents in the region five

in one-storey wooden homes, and the hotel was among a handful of tall buildings.

The capital, San Jose, suffered extensive damage, but there were no immediate reports of widespread casualties in the city.

Much of the mountainous countryside was cut off when bridges were collapsed, roads were blocked by landslides and power lines severed.

Earthquakes are a frequent phenomenon in Central America, but Costa Rica rarely has such serious tremors. In 1976, more than 20,000 people were killed in a Guatemalan quake, and 5,000 people were killed in Nicaragua in 1972.

The Customs house was also destroyed.

At a government-owned refinery on the outskirts of the port, a gasoline tank exploded, sending up a huge fireball, and an electrical short-circuit set a factory ablaze, the fire department said.

The local hospital was so badly damaged that all 28 patients had to be moved out, including 12 newborn babies who were flown to San Jose.

But dozens more injured, some seriously, could not be evacuated to San Jose because of blocked roads, hospital spokesman Antonio Matarraga said in a telephone interview.

"Many hospital patients and those injured during the earthquake are being treated in an emergency tent, set up in the street near the hospital," Red Cross spokesman Miguel Orozco said.

"The earthquake damage is really extensive... many houses are destroyed, and so are several office buildings. The atmosphere is stark and sad here."

## COLUMN

Pregnant legislators may have to call on doctor in the House

TOPEKA, Kansas (AP) — Representative Alex Scott is keeping surgical gloves and a medical clamp in his desk drawer just in case he has to make a few house calls. Three members of the Kansas House of Representatives are pregnant and due next month, and the state legislature has yet to wrap up its session. Two of the expectant mothers say if legislative business drags the session on, they'll be counting on Scott, a retired obstetrician, to be available to deliver their babies. "It's just good common sense to have something like this (medical equipment) on hand, especially when you have someone who could really hurt things along," said Scott. The legislature is currently on a break. Its wrap-up session begins Wednesday and is expected to last about a week.

That could put legislative business and childbirth on a collision course for the three legislators, particularly if the session runs into overtime. State congresswoman Darlene Crimfield is expecting her third child on May 10.

State Reps. Sheila Hochhauser and Susan Wagle expect to give birth toward the end of the month. Mrs. Wagle learned she was pregnant after she had won the primary election in her district. Mrs. Crimfield found out after she won in the general election.

## India's prostitutes may not get to vote

NEW DELHI (R) — Most of India's two million prostitutes may be deprived of their right to vote in general elections next month because of popular prejudice against them, an Indian newspaper reported.

Trade with other African states has doubled in the past year, he added.

De Klerk said he had a "very friendly" meeting Tuesday morning with Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, though he didn't get the response he wanted.

"Having heard his account, I remain convinced that it is still too early to lift economic sanctions," Kinnock told reporters after an hour with the South African leader.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a staunch opponent of sanctions, who plans to visit South Africa later this year, also spent an hour with De Klerk Tuesday.

Former Prime Minister Patai Sabha wants Indian President Rama Swamy Venkataraman to help, the Indian Express said.

The organisation had asked India's supreme court to exempt prostitutes from having their applications countersigned, a procedure meant to stop false registrations. The court turned down the petition on April 15.

## Audrey hepburn honoured

NEW YORK (AP) — Audrey Hepburn was honoured by colleagues paying tribute to the enchanting actress who bewitched fans as a princess in *Roman Holiday*.

"She was a cockney flower girl in *My Fair Lady* and the outrageous Holly Golightly in *Breakfast At Tiffany's*." Suddenly there was that dazzling creature, looking like a wide-eyed doe prancing through the forest," recalled Billy Wilder, who directed Miss Hepburn in *Sabrina*. "It took exactly five minutes for everybody on that set to fall in love with her."

Wilder was one of a dozen actors and directors to speak at the Lincoln Centre Film Society tribute to the 62-year-old actress. Miss Hepburn's big break came in 1951 at age 22 when the writer Colette spotted her and asked her to play Gigi on Broadway. Her first major movie role, *Roman Holiday*, followed in 1953. She won an Academy Award for her portrayal of a princess who goes out on the town incognito and falls in love with an American reporter.

"It was my good luck during that summer in Rome to be the first of her cinema stars to hold out my hand and help her keep her balance as she did her spins and pirouettes and made practically everybody in the world fall in love with her," said Gregory Peck, who played the reporter. "She will never be a sequel to *Roman Holiday*, but without a doubt the princess has become a queen."

From a box on the side of the stage, Miss Hepburn, radiant in a flowing white gown topped by a sparkling gold-and-aqua bolero, threw pecks and kisses. Later, she thanked the many actors, directors, photographers and technicians she worked with over the years, saying in her charmingly self-deprecating fashion that they "gave so much to a skinny broad and turned me into a marketable commodity."

## White House sees no impropriety in travels of Bush chief of staff

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has defended to the defence of President George Bush's chief of staff, saying there was nothing improper in his use of government aircraft for personal and political business.

"Chevenerment ... has obviously started off on a solitary course for the presidency," Jean-Marie Colombe wrote.

The rationale was that these two high-ranking officials should maintain voice contact with the White House at all times through secure communications equipment.

Fitzwater said Sununu "decides which trips he takes, and of course they're all subject to the rules and regulations with regard to reimbursement."

A Washington Post report Sunday estimated the total cost to taxpayers of his flights at over half a million dollars. His standard reimbursement would be at commercial rates, far cheaper than the cost of using a military jet.

The Post said the flights included 27 trips to New Hampshire



John Sununu

shire, where he had served as governor, or to nearby Boston. It said he also made trips to Colorado ski resorts and to Republican fund-raisers.

U.S. News and World Report magazine said Sununu far outdid two of Reagan's chiefs of staff in use of government planes. It said Donald Regan and James Baker made 10 trips each over a combined six-year period to the White House post.

The air force says it costs \$3,945 an hour to operate a C-20, the 12-passenger military version of a typical corporate jet. That excludes salaries of the five-member crew.



Prince Charles

Battle of Agincourt. "We hope he has started as he intends to go on," the editorial read.

## Prince courts new controversy with attack on Britain's education system

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles, who already has a reputation for controversy, has provoked a new furor with a scathing attack on Britain's education system that strays close to the forbidden area of party politics.

Newspapers gave front page prominence Tuesday to remarks in which the heir to the throne branded Britain an educational disgrace and blamed underfunding and fashionable theories about our child development.

"It is almost incredible that in Shakespeare's land one child in seven leaves primary school functionally illiterate," the prince said.

"Here in Britain we seem to get it wrong almost before we have begun... In France, Italy and Belgium every child under five receives nursery education from the state. Here, less than half of our children have that right," he said.

The prince's comments edge close to breaking an unwritten rule in which the royal family stays out of political debate. But neither of Britain's two leading parties complained because the

speech provided them with political ammunition.

The

opposition Labour Party

saw it as a critique of the Conservative government's squeeze on education spending, while the government said the prince was targeting left-leaning educationalists.

The

Guardian newspaper reported the Prince of Wales' remarks had split educationalists between those who were "utterly delighted" and many who saw his

views as outdated.

The

rightwing Daily Express recalled Shakespeare's play Henry V, here an earlier Prince of Wales leads victorious troops at the

battle of Agincourt.

"We hope he has started as he intends to go on," the editorial read.